

REMARKS

As noted in the prior Amendment, while the Examiner has returned an initialed copy of Applicants' supplemental Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed June 20, 2002, Applicants note that the Examiner has not indicated that the references included in Applicants' initial IDS filed May 8, 2001 have been considered. Applicants thus respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge consideration of the references of that previously submitted IDS by initialing each reference on a copy of the IDS and returning the copy to the Applicants' representative.

In the prior Office Action dated December 1, 2003, claims 98-109 and 119-123 were allowed, and the Examiner objected to claims 8, 13, 15, 19, 23-25, 27, 36-37, 39-43, 45, 55, 77 and 80-83 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations from the claims on which they depend. The Examiner also rejected claims 1-7, 9-12, 14, 16-18, 20-22, 26, 28-35, 38, 44, 46-54, 56-76, 78-79, 84-97, 110-118 and 124-130 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Thelmer et al. In the prior Amendment filed June 1, 2004, Applicants amended claims 1, 6, 13, 15, 19, 23-27, 36-37, 39-43, 45, 50, 55, 61, 73, 76-77, 80, 82-84, 89, 92-93, and 100; canceled claims 8, 62-72, 74-75, 78-79, 81, 90-91, 94-97, 110-118 and 128-130; and added claims 131-216.

Applicants would like to thank Examiner Hailu for his consideration during the telephone interview with Applicants' representative on November 3, 2004 on this application. During the interview, the claim scope of various of the pending claims was discussed, as was proposed amendments to the pending claims. Applicants have amended the claims in accordance with the discussion, with the changes having been made to more clearly define the subject matter of the invention - thus, Applicants believe that all pending claims continue to be allowable.

In particular, pending independent method claim 1, independent computing device claim 50 and independent computer-readable medium claim 61 have each been amended to recite claim language similar to that previously present in allowed independent method claim 37, and claim 37 has been further amended to be dependent on method claim 1 and to recite one or more additional claim elements.

Similarly, independent method claim 24, independent computing device claim 219 and independent computer-readable medium claim 217 have each been amended to recite claim language similar to that previously present in allowed independent method claim 25, and claim 25 has been further amended to be dependent on method claim 1 and to recite one or more additional claim elements.


In addition, claims 13, 15, 19 and 23 have each been amended to be dependent on method claim 1, and claim 80 has similarly been amended to be dependent on method claim 73. Claims 26 and 218 have also been amended to correct claim dependencies or other minor typographical errors, and claims 98-109 and 119-123 have been canceled.

Thus, claims 1-7, 9-61, 73, 76-77, 80, 82-89, 92-93, 124-127 and 131-220 are pending, and each of the independent claims 1, 24, 27, 36, 39-43, 45, 50, 55, 61, 73, 77, 82, 83, 89, 217 and 219 are in a form indicated by the Examiner to be allowable. Each of the dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons as the claims from which they depend, as well as for additional reasons that are not discussed here for the sake of brevity.

Thus, all of the pending claims are in allowable form, and Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to timely allow all pending claims. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (206) 694-4815.

Respectfully submitted,

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